

MEMORANDUM

TO : BM/SGN

DATE: 05 May, 1969

FROM : A/SZDNG

REF. No. SZDNG/69/038

SUBJECT: DANANG Station Monthly Report for April, 1969

GENERAL

The undersigned arrived on station on 14 April and assumed Acting Station Manager duties upon the departure of ABM/SGN on 19 April.

Hostile activity was limited to one incident, fifteen 122mm rockets were launched against the city of DaNang during the evening of 16 April, two of which impacted on the airbase. Casualties were reported as twelve Vietnamese killed, thirty wounded, and one American wounded. No company property or personnel were physically affected by this attack; one rocket did partially destroy a Vietnamese house approximately 600 yards from the Air America facility. From a briefing by USAF Security it was learned that these attacks are usually launched from an area formed by a seven and eleven kilometer radius from the city.

At 1030 AM on 27 April a U.S. military ammunition/bomb dump located on the southwest perimeter of the airbase was ignited by a grass fire causing explosions which continued for approximately 12 hours. The control tower was evacuated in the early afternoon when 2000 pound bombs started to explode which resulted in the base being closed to air traffic except for take-offs at pilot's discretion. Two Air America flights were cancelled for a total revenue loss of two hours. Our fixed wing aircraft were moved to the northeast parking ramp and the one 204B parked adjacent to a USAF revetment. Only minor concussion damage was sustained by company structures which has all been repaired; one piece of shapnel did land on the ramp. No personnel injuries were reported.

The air base was closed to all Vietnamese personnel on 28 April for no apparent reason since the activity from the ammunition dump had completely subsided. Those personnel who were able to report for duty performed admirably, handling eleven additional and special flights without a delay.

Notification was received from the American Consul that the Vietnamese authorities intend to enforce the 2000 to 0600 hours city curfew and make it applicable to all nationalities. A list of all American and TCN personnel will be submitted to the Mayor of DaNang on 5 May as requested, in order to obtain curfew passes. It is not known at this time what special procedures might be required for our HON crew-members.

Ten Southern Air Transport flights were scheduled into DaNang during the month, however, only nine were handled by company personnel due to non-receipt of a portion of the relevant re-scheduling message. Fortunately this flight was a ferry return and no maintenance problems developed. It should be pointed out that these flights do place a significant burden on station personnel when they arrive after normal duty hours, especially on the Traffic Department when round trips are scheduled.

In the area of Facilities Development, the contract for the construction of the RPD Nose Hangar lean-to has been signed and the contractor should commence work during the last part of May. Final plans for the completion of the hangar accessway and work area paving have been formulated and hopefully funding will be approved for this project in the not too distant future.

The estimate for making city electrical power available to the facility has been received and preliminary reports indicate that customer funding for this work may be rapidly forthcoming. The completion of these three projects should alleviate all the major problems at this station concerning facilities.

CUSTOMER RELATIONS

The only significant problems voiced by the VN-0041 customer during the month concerned the performance of 204B number 2 services at DaNang and Security for the Ground Service warehouse. The capability for performing these services is in the process of being established and should be available by the end of May, although personnel support on a TCS basis from Saigon will be required for each one. The warehouse security problem will be examined in detail upon the arrival of a Security Team from Saigon in mid-May and two Ground Services utility positions are being presently held vacant for possible upgrading to guard slots.

Overall, rapport with both customers remains excellent.

FISCAL

One time clock has been received, but installation and use is being deferred pending a visit from MFA/SGN in May. AR/DNG will require a detailed briefing on timekeeping procedures required in conjunction with this equipment and it is possible that a requirement for a timekeeping clerk may generate.

██████████ payroll for the month totaled: ██████████

Petty cash expenditures for the month totaled: 49,313\$VN

OPERATIONS

Revenue flight time decreased by 120+36 hrs as compared to March. VN-0041 and 4395 flying was reduced 64+31 and 64+33 hours respectively. Revenue losses during April were the lowest to date, primarily due to good weather.

The following is the break-down of flight time generated by this station during April:

VN-0041	751+25 hours
4395	306+35 hours
0005	16+25 hours
Non-Revenue	1+49 hours
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Grand Total	1076+14 hours

Revenue losses for the month are broken down as follows:

Weather	19+40 hours
Maintenance	6+45 hours
Other*	2+00 hours
Customer Cancellations	1+00 hours
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Grand Total	27+25 hours

* Two flights were cancelled on 27 May due to the air base being closed during the afternoon.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Motorola remote VHF relay system was installed at the Monkey Mountain site on 18 April. It cannot as yet be considered operational since there have been but six days when it has worked properly. Coverage during these times has been excellent, and it appears that the effective range of the equipment approached 180 nautical miles. AESU and Motorola personnel visit the site at least twice weekly to make adjustments on the equipment and the problems being experienced are considered normal.

Incoming and outgoing messages totaled 2280 and 1558 respectively.

TRAFFIC

The VN-41 customer office located in the CORES warehouse was completed on 15 April and is planned for occupancy on 10 May. This move will vacate one large office in the administration building which may be utilized for expanded passenger processing facilities. The first

CORDS contracted Continental Air Services C-47 cargo flight arrived on 17 April and during the month 12 such flights were handled by Traffic Ground Services. A total of 664 departing and 661 arriving flights were handled.

Passenger and cargo statistics for the month are as follows:

	<u>Passengers In</u>	<u>Passengers Out</u>	<u>Cargo In</u>	<u>Cargo Out</u>
VI-0041	2640	2866	304,373 lbs	385,140 lbs
4395	475	544	17,700	29,457
0005	17	12	None	200
Ferry	32	32	None	None
AAM	84	140	5,527	23,032
TOTAL	3248	3594	327,600 lbs	437,829 lbs

PERSONNEL

One Third Country National employee had to delay starting his annual leave due to non-receipt of his exit/re-entry visa and extension of stay. This problem is expected to be compounded in May and could result in the re-scheduling of some leave plans. The requisite paperwork for obtaining the above visas are presently being submitted two months in advance of travel, but it appears that even more lead time is required.

The personnel breakdown for DaNang Station during April is as follows:

Permenant	4	17	33	113
Temporary	1	0	0	1
Pre-Process	0	0	0	7
Daily Hire	0	0	0	0
TOTAL (176)	5	17	33	121

TECHNICAL SERVICES

Only 3 maintenance delays were incurred during the month out of a total of 635 departing flights. The number of heavy services totaled 9, a decline of 3 from the previous month. There were no engine changes and two aircraft were grounded for parts. ACD expended a total of 1756 man-hours of which 294 were utilized for hostel maintenance. All work on the nose hangar was completed with the installation of overhead flourescent lighting. A replacement cylinder head for the GMC truck was received but was found to be unusable due to hairline cracks. No significant problems were encountered in the realm of NSA procurement.

Original Signed by
WINSTON C. CAMBRE
Winston C. Cambre